

## **Constraints Experienced by the Rural Youth While Participating Rural Development Programmes**

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### **INTRODUCTION**

Rural youth constitute a strong force so as to work as the vehicle of change' for bringing about the socio-economic development of the country. But, evaluation studies undertaken by Government and other agencies have clearly indicated that the rural youth as a group are shy to take part in the rural development programmes. Rajasekhar (1987) and Anonymous (1992) also stated that the primary causes for the wastage of youth power were lack of appropriate state wide inter-linked network for youth organisation and lack of proper inter-linked network for youth organisation and lack of proper guidance and training. Thus, low participation of rural youth in rural development activities is widely accepted. This fact needs a systematic research study to screen out the important constraints faced by rural youth while participating in the rural development programmes.

### **OBJECTIVES**

To identify the constraints experienced by rural youths while participating in rural development programmes and their suggestions to overcome the constraints were the objectives of this study.

### **METHODOLOGY**

The study was conducted in Mehsana district of Gujarat state. Five villages each from Patan and Kadi talukas of Mehsana district were selected at random. From the selected villages, a list of male persons in the age group of 15 to 29 years of the village population was obtained from the office of the Gram Panchayat. For the selection of respondents, random sampling technique was adopted. For this 10 per cent of the rural youths from each of these villages were selected randomly. Thus, total sample consisted of 150 rural youths from 10 villages. The data were collected from the respondents through well structured pretested interview schedule for this purpose.

### **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

The major problems faced by rural youths while participating in rural development activities were noted. The responses were compiled and percentages were calculated. The data in this regard are presented in Table 1.

It is evident from Table 1 that, the major constraints experienced by rural youth were, lack of rural youth clubs and their activities (71 per cent) followed by

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Constraints Experienced by...

**Table 1 : Distribution of the respondents according to constraints faced while participating in rural development programmes**

(N=150)

Sr. No.	Constraints	Number	Per cent
1.	Lack of rural youth clubs and their activities	106	70.67
2.	Lack of villager's co-operation	102	68.00
3.	Lack of guidance from voluntary organisations.	95	63.33
4.	Lack of proper leadership	90	60.00
5.	Lack of interest on the part of rural youth in village development work	82	54.67
6.	Lack of spare time	72	48.00
7.	Lack of financial help from Government and village institutions	72	48.00
8.	Involvement of political interest in development work	70	46.67
9.	Villagers do not show faith in youths	55	36.67
10.	Lack of proper training facilities	42	28.00

lack of villagers' co-operation (68 per cent), lack of guidance from voluntary organisations (63 per cent), lack of proper leadership (60 per cent) and lack of

interest on the part of rural youth in village development work (55 per cent).

The rural youths also faced other problems like lack of spare time.

**Table 2 : Distribution of the respondents according to their suggestions to overcome the constraints**

(N=150)

Sr. No.	Constraints	Number	Per cent
1.	Establishment of functional rural youth club in the village	105	70.00
2.	Co-operation from villagers	100	66.67
3.	Proper guidance from voluntary organisations	98	65.33
4.	Encouragement from village leader to rural youth for participation	95	63.33
5.	Rural youth should develop interest for rural development activities	85	56.67
6.	Adequate financial help from Govt. and village institutions	72	48.00

involvement of political interest in development work, villagers do not show faith in youth and lack of proper training facilities.

As regard to suggestions, it can be seen from the Table 2 that, majority of the rural youths had indicated constructive suggestions to overcome these constraints were, establishment of functional rural youth clubs in the villages (70 per cent) followed by cooperation from villagers (67 per cent), proper guidance from voluntary organisations (65 per cent) and encouragement from village leader to rural youth for participation (63 per cent).

### CONCLUSION

The major constraints faced by the rural youth in participating rural development programme were : lack of rural youth clubs and their activities,

followed by lack of co-operation from villagers, lack of guidance from voluntary organisations and lack of proper leadership.

The most important suggestions offered by the rural youth were establishment of functional rural youth clubs and co-operation from villagers in rural development activities.

### IMPLICATIONS

There is an urgent need to establish Rural Youth Strengthen Mandals wherever it is necessary and to strengthen the existing youth Clubs/Yuvak Mandals on systematic way taking into consideration the views and needs of rural youth. It was also felt that the existing rural institutions should give more attention with adequate financial support to make youth clubs more functional.

### REFERENCES

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